

***California
Commission on Teacher Credentialing***

***Meeting of
February 6-7, 2002***

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: SS-1

COMMITTEE: Study Session

TITLE: Informational Presentation on the National Board for
Professional Teaching Standards

_____ Action

_____ Information

 X Report

Strategic Plan Goal(s):

Goal 1: Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of
professional educators

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**Informational Presentation on
The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards**

Professional Services Division

January 15, 2002

Executive Summary

Since 1987 the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has operated a voluntary national assessment and certification system for experienced teachers based on high, rigorous standards. This work of NBPTS nationally and in California will be described and experiences of board certified California teachers will be shared during this informational session.

Policy(s) Issue to be Considered

None at this time.

Fiscal Impact Statement

NA

Recommendation(s)

None at this time.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards

Presentation by
Betty Castor, President
Charles A. Summers, Vice-President
Marissa Hipol-Rice, NBPTS Certified Teacher
Myrna Hipol-Estrada, NBPTS Certified Teacher

Background

Scope and Purpose. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was created in 1987 in response to a Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy report entitled *A Nation Prepared: Teachers for the 21st Century*. This report called for a National Board to “establish high standards for what teachers need to know and be able to do, and to certify teachers who meet that standard.” Today the NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and non-governmental organization governed by a 63-member board of directors, a majority of whom are classroom teachers. The other directors include school administrators, school board leaders, governors and state legislators, higher education officials, and business and community leaders. Six Californians currently are members of the board.

The mission of the NBPTS is “to establish high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do, to develop and operate a national voluntary system to assess and certify teachers who meet these standards, and to advance related education reforms for the purpose of improving student learning in American schools.” Currently the NBPTS offers 24 certificates applicable to 95% of the eligible teaching population. It has awarded certificates to 9531 teachers since 1995, including 1300 Californians.

NBPTS certification is intensive standards-based professional development for experienced teachers. It is available to all teachers who hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught for a minimum of three years in either a public or private school, and have held a valid state license for those three years. Teachers must demonstrate their knowledge and skills through a series of performance-based assessments and written exercises. Complementary to state licensing, this certification is an opportunity for experienced teachers to demonstrate accomplished practice. A National Board Certificate is valid for ten years.

California Incentives. California offers a number of incentives for participation in the NBPTS process. California teachers who become National Board Certified and hold a preliminary multiple or single subject credential may apply for a professional clear credential. California teachers who hold National Board Certification based on teaching experience in another state may be issued a California professional clear credential in the

subject area for which the teacher has received national certification. California teachers who obtain National Board Certification are eligible for a one time \$10,000 incentive award, provided they are employed in a public school district or charter school and teach at least 50% time. Teachers who teach at least 60% time in a low performing school are eligible for a one time \$20,000 award. This award is given over four years in \$5000 installments.

To encourage candidates, California pays \$1000 of the \$2300 candidate application fee. These subsidies are provided for in the state budget. In 2000-01 over 1000 candidates received these fee subsidies. Currently up to \$2 million has been allocated in the state budget for this purpose. In addition, private funds supported an additional \$1000 fee subsidy for 812 teachers who met certain criteria, including teaching in low performing schools. Those teachers received \$2000 of the \$2300 fee from external funds.

Presentation

National Board President Betty Castor and Vice-President Charles A. Summers will provide additional information about the board. Marissa Hipo-Ricel and Myrna Hipol-Estrada will describe their experiences with the National Board process.